

## REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are in response to the Office Action of Examiner Pierre Miche Bataille, dated 15 March 2004.

Claims 1 and 31-49 are in the case, with claims 1 and 31-39 allowed.

### 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 40-49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Steely, Jr., et al. U.S. Patent 6,049,889 (hereinafter, Steely).

Applicants have amended these claims to recite a two hop process for controlling cache coherency including in a first hop a requesting node requests most recent data of a home node and in a second hop the home node immediately returns the most recent data from its shared memory to the requesting node.

Steely, on the other hand teaches a process whereby a node sharing data with other nodes which seeks to modify the data transmits the modifications over a data link to other nodes in a network, with each update being received in order by each node in a cluster. The modifying node sends an acknowledgment request to the receiving nodes in the cluster, and each node that receives the acknowledgment request returns an acknowledgment to the sending node. (Steely, Abstract).

As amended, claims 40-49 clearly distinguish Steely, and applicants request that they be allowed.

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Applicant urges that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1, and 31-49.


The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number

provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

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By

  
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